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## Book Notices.

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### Paul's Earlier Epistles.

*Four of the Earlier Epistles of the Apostle Paul, viz., First and Second Thessalonians, First and Second Corinthians.* Greek Text with Expository Notes. By James R. Boise, D. D., LL. D. New York: D. Appleton and Co.

This beautifully printed volume from the hand of so learned and careful an exegetical scholar as Professor Boise will be heartily welcomed by students of the Pauline Epistles. The text employed is Tischendorf's with constant reference to those of Westcott and Hort and of Tregelles. The notes are brief and rigidly exegetical. "Three points are kept constantly in view—the exact signification of words, the force of the Greek construction, and the logical connection of the sentences." They are intended for students and pastors who need concise and clear directions and suggestions. Professor Boise understands from long experience as a teacher just how much to say and when to stop. With this little book and a larger commentary the student of these Epistles will make good progress in the mastery of the thought of four of the most varied and peculiarly difficult of Paul's writings.

### The Gospel of Mark.

*The Gospel according to St. Mark.* [Expositor's Bible.] By the Very Rev. G. A. Chadwick, D. D. New York: A. C. Armstrong and Son. Price \$1.50.

Dean Chadwick has given us a book of expository sketches on the Gospel not an exposition of the book as a book or an expository treatment of the life of Christ. His treatment is not built upon a theory of the development of events or of revelation in the ministry of Jesus, neither does it reveal a clearly defined view of the plan of Mark's writing. He has discussed the episodes, he has not organized and unified them. The strong points of the book lie along two lines (1) the sharp and clear discussions of topics, as e. g., fasting, miracles, and (2) an incisive and spirited style. The book is full of vigor and life. It merits perusal for the breezy and animated tone that pervades it, not for any particularly new light or originality of method, which may be discovered.

### Schuerer's Jewish People.

*A History of The Jewish People in the Time of Jesus Christ.* First Division. Political History of Palestine from B. C. 175 to A. D. 135. Vol. I. By Emil Schürer, D. D. Translated by Rev. John Macpherson, Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark. N. Y.: Scribner and Welford. Price \$3.00.

This new volume of Clark's Foreign Theological Library has been delayed because of the careful revision which Dr. Schürer was giving to the German original. It is already three years ago or more since the three volumes of the second Division appeared, which deals with the *internal* condition of Palestine and of the Jewish people in Jesus' time. The author found that in their

revision they were expanded to almost twice the original size, so numerous had the materials become which must be incorporated, and now this first division, which investigates the *external* or political history, will occupy two large volumes of almost 400 pages each, the first of which is now in hand. It is astonishing to think of the rapidity with which this new science of *Neu-testamentliche Zeitgeschichte*, as the Germans cumbrously call it, has come into prominence. Its claims are exceedingly lofty. Schürer declares on the first page of this volume that "no incident in the gospel story, no word in the preaching of Jesus Christ, is intelligible apart from its setting in Jewish history and without a clear understanding of that world of thought-distinction (?) of the Jewish people." Alas for our fathers! We are the people! But without going to such a length it may be frankly allowed that the past generations of Christian scholars have altogether too much ignored the abundant help which a knowledge such as Schürer alludes to offered for the understanding of difficult and dark statements or incidents in the New Testament. One can conceive of many intellectual undertakings of our thoughtful and scholarly clergymen which would not give them half the benefit or afford them half the stimulus that a careful study of Schürer's "New Testament Times" offers to them. They would begin to work their way into the life of the first century and live on friendly terms with Pharisee and Sadducee, walk with Jesus and think as Paul thought in the Jewish intellectual atmosphere and with the Hebrew cast of idea and expression. They would find too an unanswerable argument for the truth and the divineness of the Gospel as they move among its neighbors and look from near at hand upon those who would fain be its peers. The Bible would become alive historically and spiritually as now it is alive only spiritually. That spiritual flavor would by no means be lost, rather intensified—possible dangers to it warded off, its permanence assured. This is bound to be in some measure the result of a patient and thorough study of this new science of which Schürer's book is the latest and best representative.

### Theism.

*Christian Theism, its Claims and Sanctions.* By D. B. Purington, LL. D. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

*Christian Theism; a brief and popular Survey of the Evidence upon which it rests; and the objections urged against it considered and refuted.* By the Rev. C. A. Row, M. A. New York: Thomas Whitaker. Price \$1.75.

The wide spread interest in the theistic argument is the occasion for these volumes. Their aim is to reach the popular mind and meet the objections which are being presented so strongly and persistently by the opponents of Theism. Mr. Row's book is the more simple; while the originality of Mr. Purington's contribution will make it acceptable to those more familiar with the subject. It is significant to note that the intuitional school is not maintaining its ground in the face of modern negative philosophy but that the old fashioned theistic argument reshaped on the modern principles of the ultimate unities of force and reason is taking its place and more than holding its ground against all assaults. Both these books are very attractive in outward form.